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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

BRIAN O'HOLLORAN and PATRICK J. FERGUSON

Serial No. : 09/863,074 Dated: October 8, 2001  
Filed : May 21, 2001 Our File: CMI 304B  
For : SURGICAL NEEDLE WITH HAND-ACTUABLE  
LOCK MECHANISM

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.56**

Pursuant to applicants' duty of disclosure required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, applicants are submitting the enclosed, completed PTO Form 1449 with copies of each reference as required by 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. The listing of any reference or the submission of a copy of any reference shall not be deemed as an admission that the listed or submitted reference is prior art for this application.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on October 8, 2001.

Mandi M. Leighty  
Mandi M. Leighty

Respectfully submitted,

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